

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 14-23 are pending and stand ready for further action on the merits. Claims 2-7, 10 and 13 have been cancelled. Claim 11 has been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to nonelected subject matter. The claims have been amended for clarity. No new matter has been added by way of the above Amendment.

**January 8, 2009 Interview**

Applicants note with appreciation that Examiners Clark and Tate conducted a personal interview with Applicants representative, Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq., (#43,575) on January 8, 2009. Both Examiners Tate and Clark were very helpful in offering suggestions which would help clarify the invention. The above Amendment is believed to be consistent with the suggestions that Examiners Tate and Clark made during the interview.

As noted on the Interview Summary form, Examiners Tate and Clark believe the amended claims are distinguished from the cited references.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

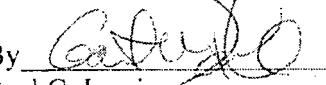
Applicants comments made in December 12, 2008 amendments are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

In view of the above Amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq. (Reg. No. 43,575) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Dated: January 16, 2009

Respectfully submitted;

By  #43575  
Paul C. Lewis  
Registration No.: 43,368  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road  
Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000  
Attorney for Applicant